

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the subject application, and are presently under consideration. Claims 1-16 are rejected. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

**I. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10 and 13-14 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yacobi (U.S. Patent No. 5,878,138) (hereinafter "Yacobi"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Yacobi does not disclose a registration server informing a user that a new certificate will not be issued until the old certificate has been revoked, as recited in claim 1. Yacobi discloses a renewal process that includes an electronic wallet's obligation to submit an old certificate with a public and private key (See Yacobi, Col. 12, Line 20-23). Nothing in Yacobi discloses that a user is notified of the electronic wallet's obligation to submit an old certificate. Accordingly, Yacobi does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. Thus, Yacobi does not anticipate claim 1, and therefore, claim 1 should be patentable over Yacobi.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is not anticipated for substantially the same reasons as claim 1 and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, claim 2 should be patentable over Yacobi.

In regards to claim 5, Yacobi does not disclose upon a registration web server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in a directory, the registration web server informing the user that a signature certificate will not be issued, as recited in claim 5. Yacobi discloses a certification process. In the certification process disclosed in Yacobi, a user presents his/her electronic wallet, and after verification of the user's identity, a bank produces a certificate and delivers the certificate to the user's electronic wallet (See Yacobi (See Yacobi, Col. 8, Line 50-Col. 9, Line 24). However, Yacobi is silent on a course of action

when a user requesting a certificate is not in a directory. In fact, the certification process disclosed in Yacobi presupposes that a user will attempt to receive a certificate only when the user is in possession of an electronic wallet. Furthermore, Yacobi discloses that the electronic wallets are manufactured with a certificate that is registered with a certifying authority (See Yacobi, Col. 8, Lines 50-53). Consequently, in Yacobi, if a user possesses an electronic wallet, that user also possesses a certificate. Yacobi does not disclose registration server that allows a user to request a certificate when that user does not already possess a certificate. Accordingly, Yacobi does not disclose each and every element of claim 5. Thus, Yacobi does not anticipate claim 5, and therefore, claim 5 should be patentable over Yacobi.

Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and is not anticipated by Yacobi for substantially the same reasons as claim 5 and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, claim 6 should be patentable over Yacobi.

In regards to claim 9, Yacobi does not disclose a registration web server informing a user that a new signature certificate will not be issued until an old signature certificate has been revoked. As stated above with respect to claim 1, Yacobi does not disclose that a user is notified of the electronic wallet's obligation to submit an old certificate. Accordingly, Yacobi does not disclose each and every element of claim 9. Therefore, claim 9 is not anticipated by Yacobi, and therefore, claim 9 is patentable over Yacobi.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is not anticipated by Yacobi for substantially the same reasons as claim 9, and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, claim 9 should be patentable over Yacobi.

In regards to claim 13, Yacobi does not disclose a registration server informing a user that the user is not a valid member of an enterprise, and does not issue a signature certificate, as recited in claim 13. As stated above with respect to claim 5, Yacobi is silent on a course of action when a user requesting a certificate is not in a directory. Accordingly, Yacobi does not disclose each and every element of claim 13. Thus, Yacobi does not anticipate claim 13, and therefore, claim 13 is patentable over Yacobi.

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and is not anticipated by Yacobi for substantially the same reasons as claim 13 and for the specific elements recited therein. Accordingly, claim 14 should be patentable over Yacobi.

For the reasons described above, claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10 and 13-14 should be patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**II. Rejection of Claims 3, 7, 11 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 3, 7, 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacobi in view of Zhou.

Claims 3 and 11 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively. Yacobi does not teach or suggest a registration server informing a user that a new signature certificate will not be issued until the old signature certificate has been revoked, as recited in claims 1 and 9, from which claims 3 and 11 depend. The Office Action states that Zhou teaches an authoritative database that includes user identifiers that Zhou refers to as a metadirectory. However, Zhou does not cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Yacobi. That is, Zhou also does not teach or suggest a registration server informing a user that a new signature certificate will not be issued until the old signature certificate has been revoked, as recited in claims 1 and 9, from which claims 3 and 11 depend. Consequently, taken alone or in combination, Yacobi and Zhou fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 3 and 11. Accordingly, the combination of Yacobi and Zhou does not make claims 3 and 11 obvious, and therefore, claims 3 and 11 are patentable over Yacobi in view of Zhou.

Claim 7 depends from claim 5. Yacobi does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in the directory, the registration server informing the user that a signature certificate will not be issued, as recited in claim 5, from which claim 7 depends. The Office Action states that Zhou teaches an authoritative database that includes user identifiers that Zhou refers to as a metadirectory.

However, Zhou does not cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Yacobi. That is, Zhou also does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in the directory, the registration server informing the user that a signature certificate will not be issued, as recited in claim 5, from which claim 7 depends. Consequently, taken alone or in combination, Yacobi and Zhou fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 7. Accordingly, the combination of Yacobi and Zhou does not make claim 7 obvious, and therefore, claim 7 is patentable over Yacobi in view of Zhou.

Claim 15 depends from claim 13. Yacobi does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in a directory, the registration server informing the user that the user is not a valid member of the enterprise and not issue a signature certificate, as recited in claim 13, from which claim 15 depends. The Office Action states that Zhou teaches an authoritative database that includes user identifiers that Zhou refers to as a metadirectory. However, the addition of Zhou does not cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Yacobi. That is, Zhou also does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in a directory, the registration server informing the user that the user is not a valid member of the enterprise and not issue a signature certificate, as recited in claim 13, from which claim 15 depends. Consequently, taken alone or in combination, Yacobi and Zhou fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 15. Accordingly, the combination of Yacobi and Zhou does not make claim 15 obvious, and therefore, claim 15 is patentable over Yacobi in view of Zhou.

### **III. Rejection of Claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 4, 8, 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacobi in view of Fischer (U.S. Patent No. 5,214,702), (hereinafter "Fischer"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 4 and 12 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively. Yacobi does not teach or suggest a registration server informing a user that a new signature certificate will not be issued

until the old signature certificate has been revoked, as recited in claims 1 and 9, from which claims 4 and 12 depend. The Office Action States that Fischer discloses a person that can revoke certificates. However, Fischer fails to cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Yacobi. That is, Fischer also does not teach or suggest a registration server informing a user that a new signature certificate will not be issued until the old signature certificate has been revoked, as recited in claims 1 and 9, from which claims 4 and 12 depend. Consequently, taken alone or in combination, Yacobi and Fischer fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 4 and 12. Accordingly, the combination of Yacobi and Fischer does not make claims 4 and 12 obvious, and therefore, claims 4 and 12 are patentable over Yacobi in view of Fischer.

Claim 8 depends from claim 5. Yacobi does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in the directory, the registration server informing the user that a signature certificate will not be issued, as recited in claim 5, from which claim 8 depends. The Office Action states that Fischer discloses a person that can revoke certificates. However, Fischer fails to cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Yacobi. That is, Fischer also does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in the directory, the registration server informing the user that a signature certificate will not be issued, as recited in claim 5, from which claim 8 depends. Consequently, taken alone or in combination, Yacobi and Fischer fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 8. Accordingly, the combination of Yacobi and Fischer does not make claim 8 obvious, and therefore, claim 8 is patentable over Yacobi in view of Fischer.

Claim 16 depends from claim 13. Yacobi does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in a directory, the registration server informing the user that the user is not a valid member of the enterprise and not issue a signature certificate, as recited in claim 13, from which claim 16 depends. The Office Action states that Fischer discloses a person that can revoke certificates. However, Fischer fails to cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Yacobi. That is, Fischer also

does not teach or suggest upon a registration server receiving information from a directory indicating that an identified user is not in a directory, the registration server informing the user that the user is not a valid member of the enterprise and not issue a signature certificate, as recited in claim 13, from which claim 16 depends. Consequently, taken alone or in combination, Yacobi and Fischer fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 16. Accordingly, the combination of Yacobi and Fischer does not make claim 16 obvious, and therefore, claim 16 is patentable over Yacobi in view of Fischer.

Serial No. 09/823,701

Docket No. NG(MS)7185NP

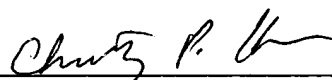
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 7/29/05

  
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